

# **Fiscal Services Division**

## **Legislative Services Agency**

### **Fiscal Note**

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HF 2724 - Lead Testing of Blood (LSB 6270 HV)

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Fiscal Note Version - New

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#### **Description**

House File 2724 directs the Department of Public Health to work with health care provider associations to provide education to health care providers regarding blood lead testing for children enrolled in certain federally funded programs. The Bill also requires the Department to implement blood lead testing for children under age six who are not covered by a third party source for payment.

In addition, HF 2724 requires the Department of Public Health to contract with one or more public health laboratories to provide blood lead analysis, and to establish administrative rules on the procedures health care providers are to follow to submit samples for analysis, as well as rules for reimbursement of providers for drawing blood samples. The payment for drawing blood samples and conducting analysis is limited to the amount appropriated for the Program.

#### **Background**

Currently, the Department of Public Health receives an estimated total of \$1.1 million to reduce the prevalence of lead poisoning in children, which includes \$659,000 in federal funds, \$353,000 in State General Funds, and \$76,000 in funding from the Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust.

The Department estimates that approximately 50,000 children under age six are currently tested for lead poisoning each year. Of these, the Department pays for laboratory analysis for an estimated 9,000 children not covered by Medicaid and not covered by another source of payment.

#### **Assumptions**

1. The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) no longer permits costs for drawing blood and lead analysis for children to be paid from federal CDC grant funds; therefore, these costs will be paid for with 100.0% State funds.
2. The Department of Public Health will pay for drawing blood and lead analysis for an additional 10,000 children each year not covered by Medicaid or private insurance.
3. The cost to draw blood will be \$5 per child for a total cost of \$50,000 per year.
4. The cost to conduct laboratory blood analysis will be \$11 per child for a total cost of \$110,000 per year.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The estimated cost of HF 2724 is an increase in General Fund expenditures of \$160,000 annually for the Department of Public Health beginning in FY 2007.

House File 2734 (FY 2007 Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill) currently provides a General Fund increase of \$200,000 in the Environmental Hazards appropriation for childhood lead prevention activities. The Bill has not yet been enacted.

**Source**

Department of Public Health

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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March 9, 2006

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The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.

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